

# Surveillance and Broadcast Services

**FAA Offshore Infrastructure Management  
and Engineering Team**



Presented to: FAA - Industry Gulf of America  
Agreement Implementation Committee

By: Rana Obeid, Federal Lead

Date: May 14, 2025



# FAA-Agreement Implementation Committee “AIC”

## Why are we here?

- **The AIC is a product of the 2006 FAA-Industry Gulf of America Memorandum of Agreement and subsequently carried over by the 2021 Memorandum of Understanding between FAA, HSAC, and VAI for aviation safety in the Gulf of America**
- **The purpose of the AIC is to foster cooperation, commitment, accountability, and trust to improve and sustain quality Air Traffic Services in the Gulf**
- **The AIC assists the FAA in strategic planning by providing feedback / recommendations**
- **The AIC is used to assess the coverage of installed FAA equipment and whether additional areas should be addressed**

## Safety / Service

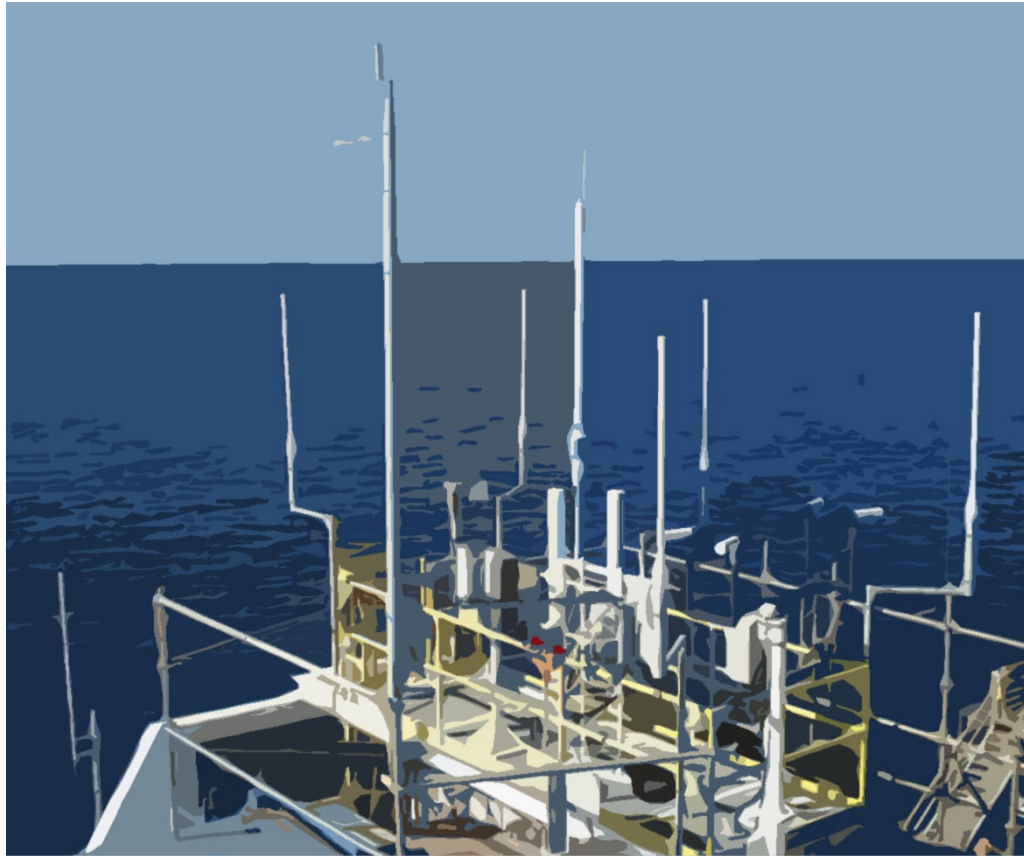


# Agenda

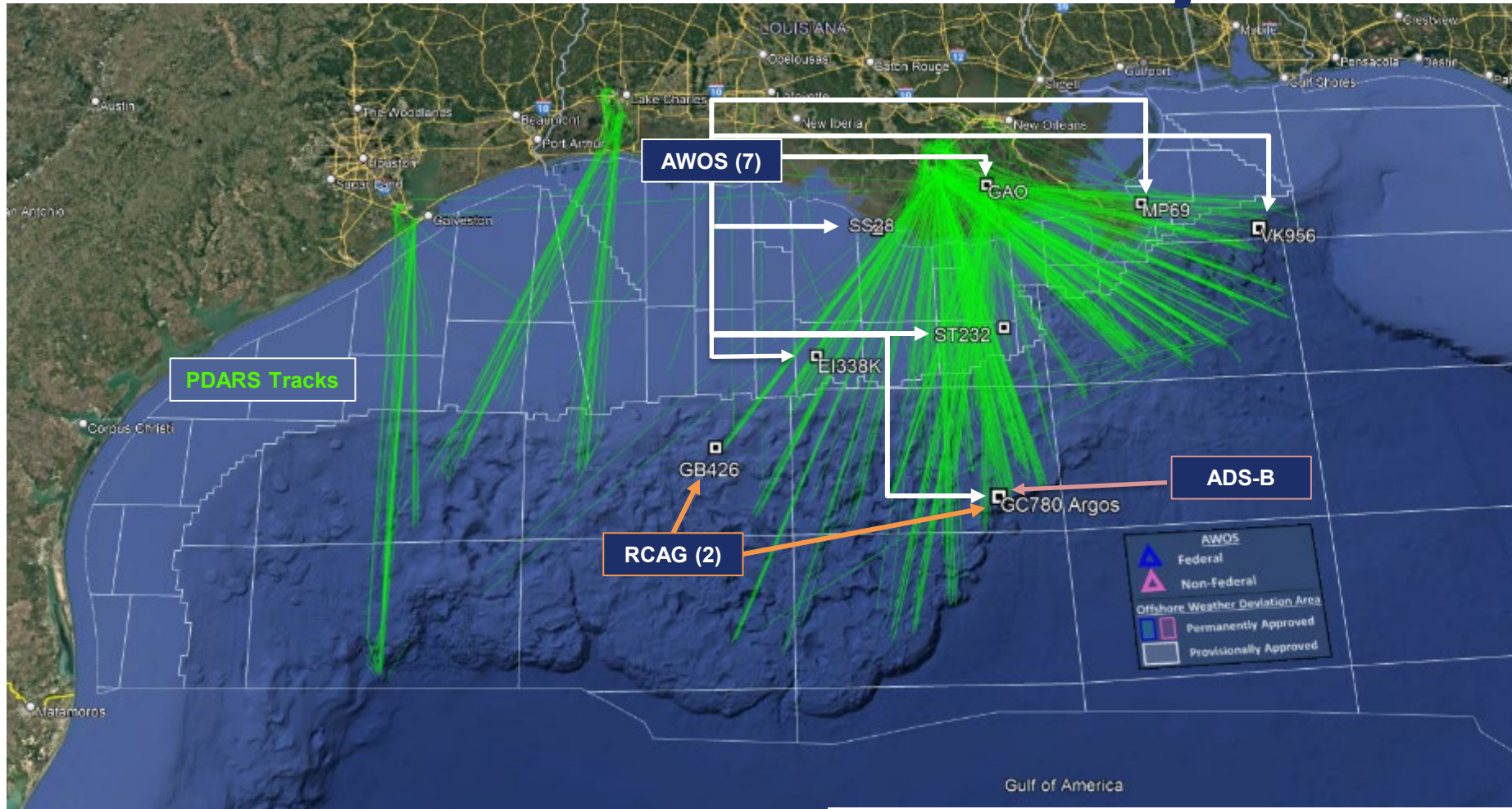
- Regular Business
  - FAA Infrastructure Projects
  - 5-Year Outlook
  - AWOS, ADS-B, & VHF Comm Coverage
  - Installation Updates
- New Business
  - AIC Decisions
  - Industry Support
  - Traffic Count & Traffic Trends
  - Community Awareness



# FAA Infrastructure Status



# 2025 Offshore Installation Projects



## AWOS Commissioning:

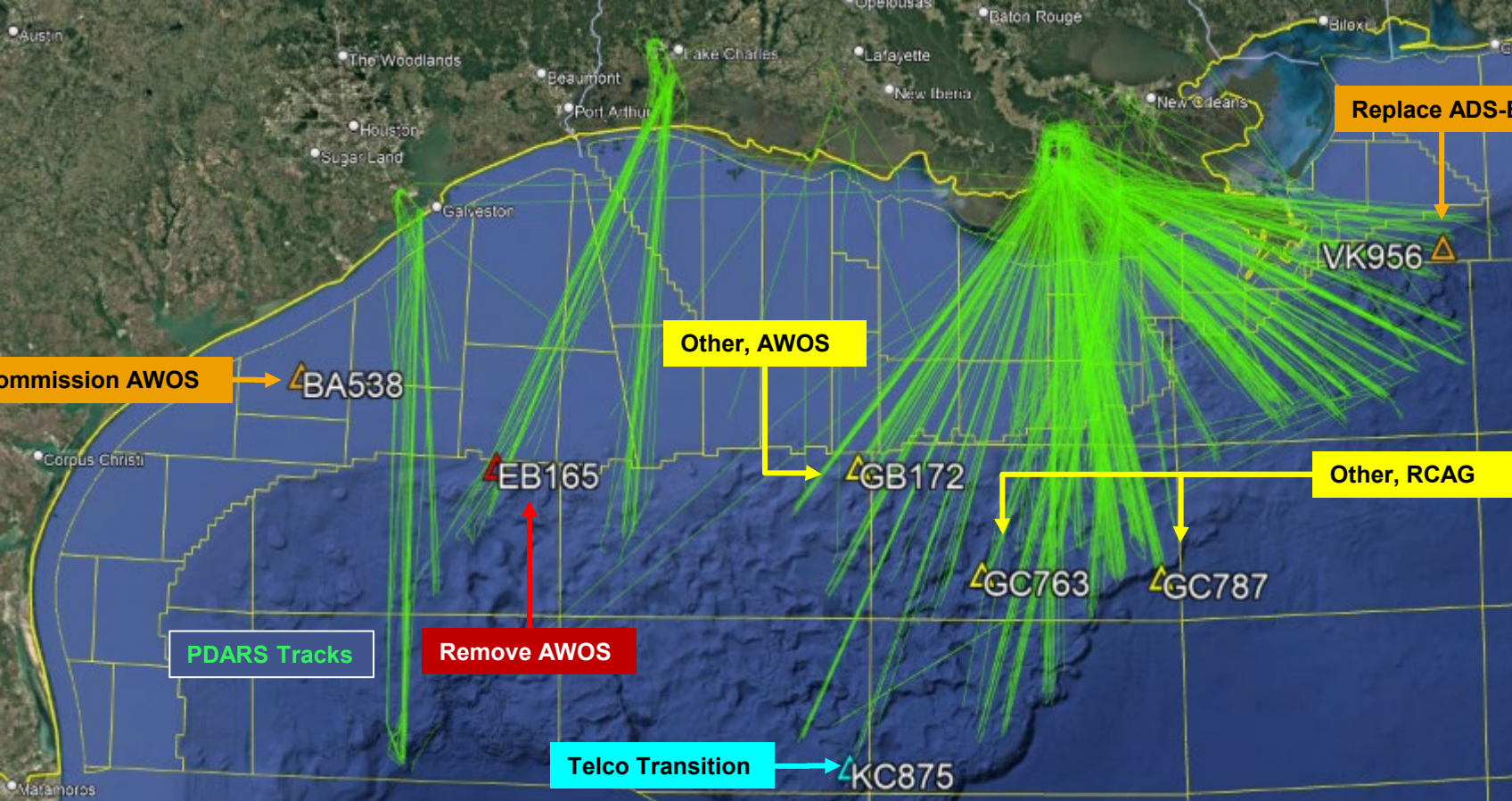
Eugene Island 338 (June 2025)  
 South Timbalier 232 (June 2025)  
 Ship Shoal 28 (Aug 2025)

Main Pass 69 (July 2025)  
 Galliano, LA (TBD)\*  
 Viosca Knoll 956 (TBD)\*  
 Green Canyon 780 (TBD)\*

## ADS-B/RCAG Commissioning:

Garden Banks 426 (Dec 2025)  
 Green Canyon 780 (TBD)\*

# 2025 Offshore Sustainment Projects



- ✓ Re-commission AWOS Brazos 538
- ✓ Remove AWOS East Break 165
- Replace ADS-B Viosca Knoll 956

- ✓ ADS-B & AWOS Telco Transition Keathley Canyon 875
- Monitor RCAG Green Canyon 787
- Resolve Bleed over onto RCAG Green Canyon 763
- Resolve AWOS Bleed over onto PA at Garden Banks 172





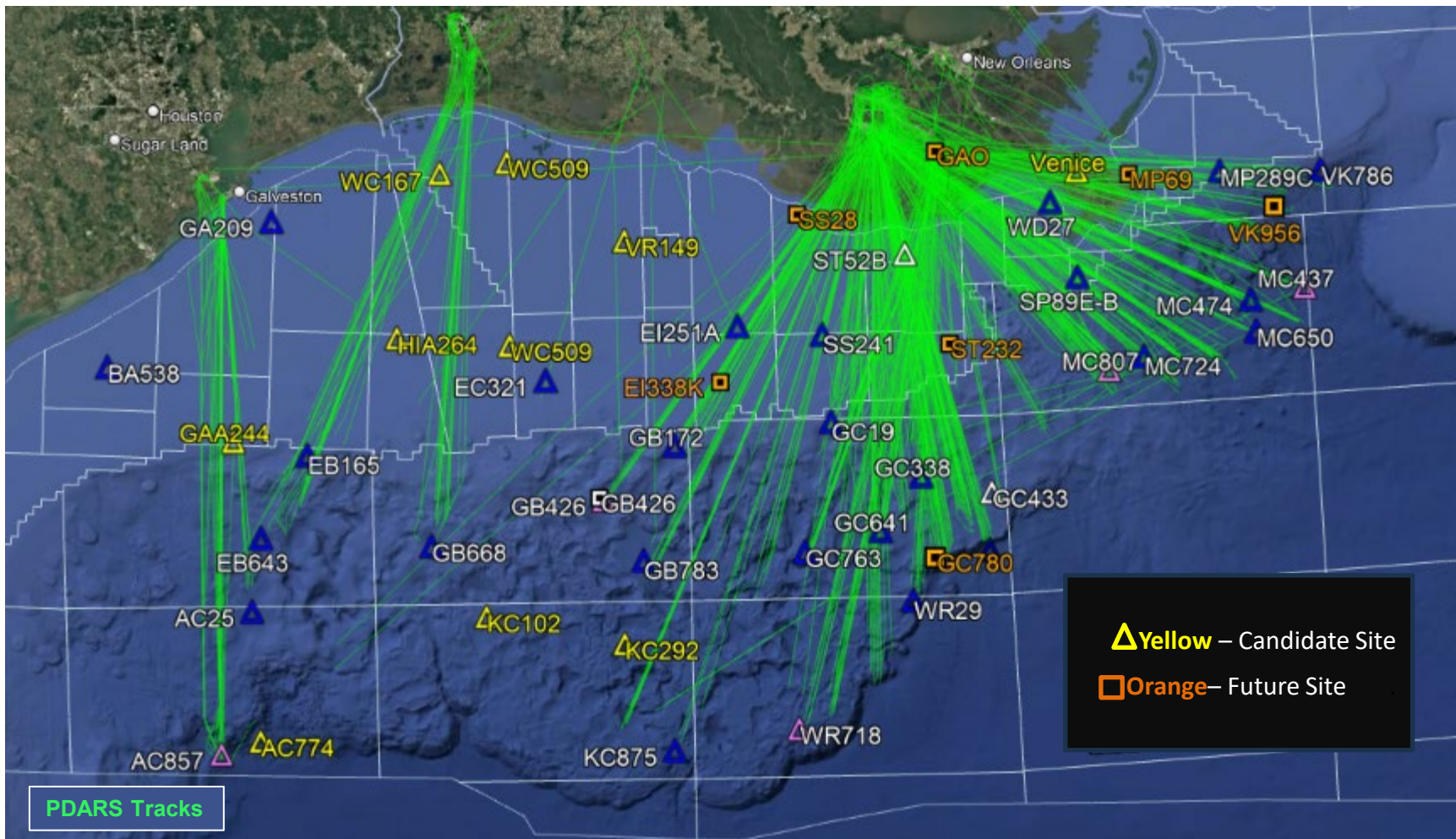
# 5-Year Outlook

# Projected AWOS Losses within 5 Years

1. Alaminos Canyon 25
2. East Breaks 643A
3. East Cameron 321A
4. Garden Banks 668
5. Garden Banks 783

- = No replacement identified, seeking replacement suggestions
- = Replacement not planned
- = Possible replacement identified

# Candidate Sites Identified for Possible AWOS Installation Within Next 5 Years

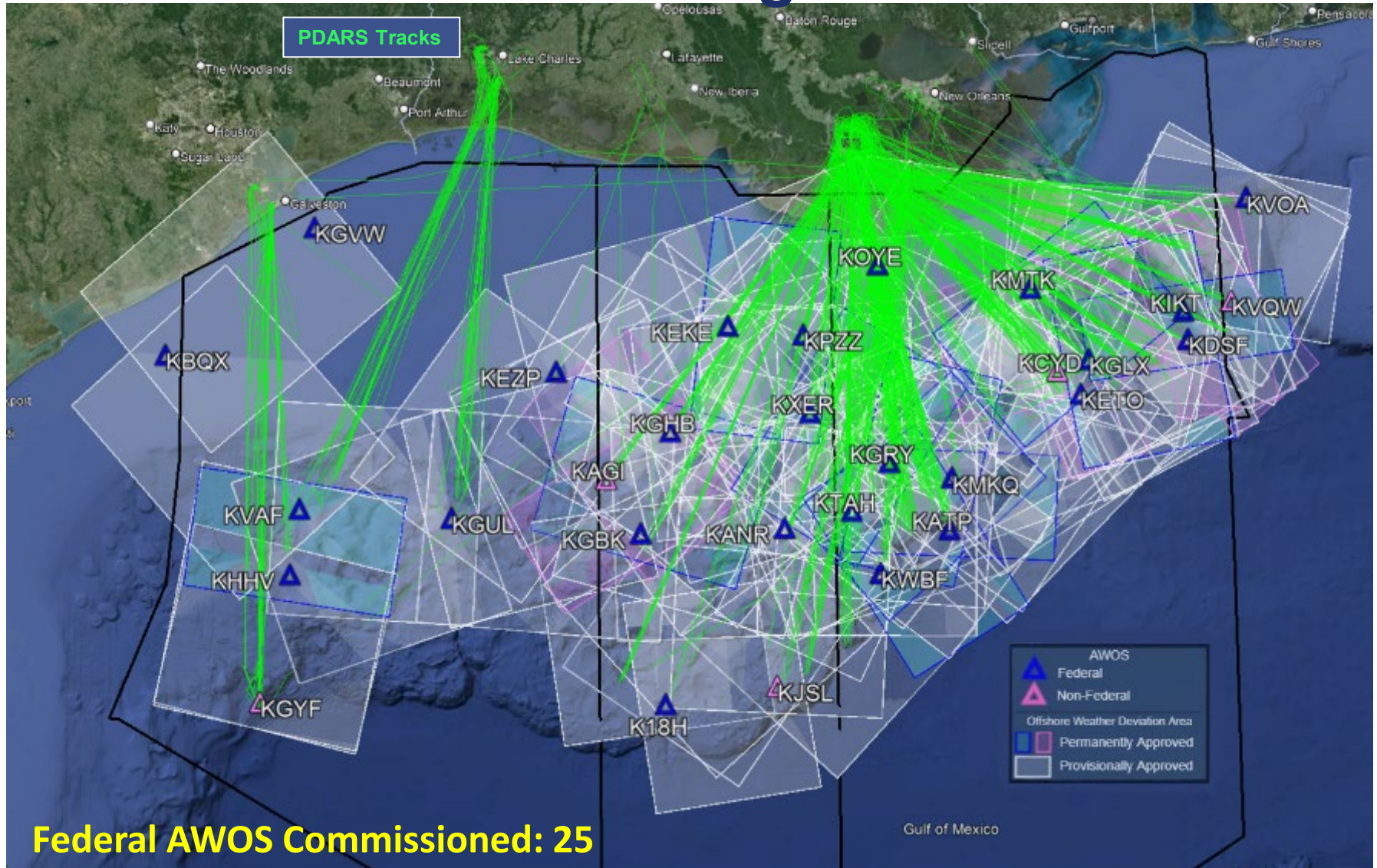


# AWOS, ADS-B, & VHF Comm Coverage

**Alex Charity**  
Project Manager



# Current AWOS Coverage

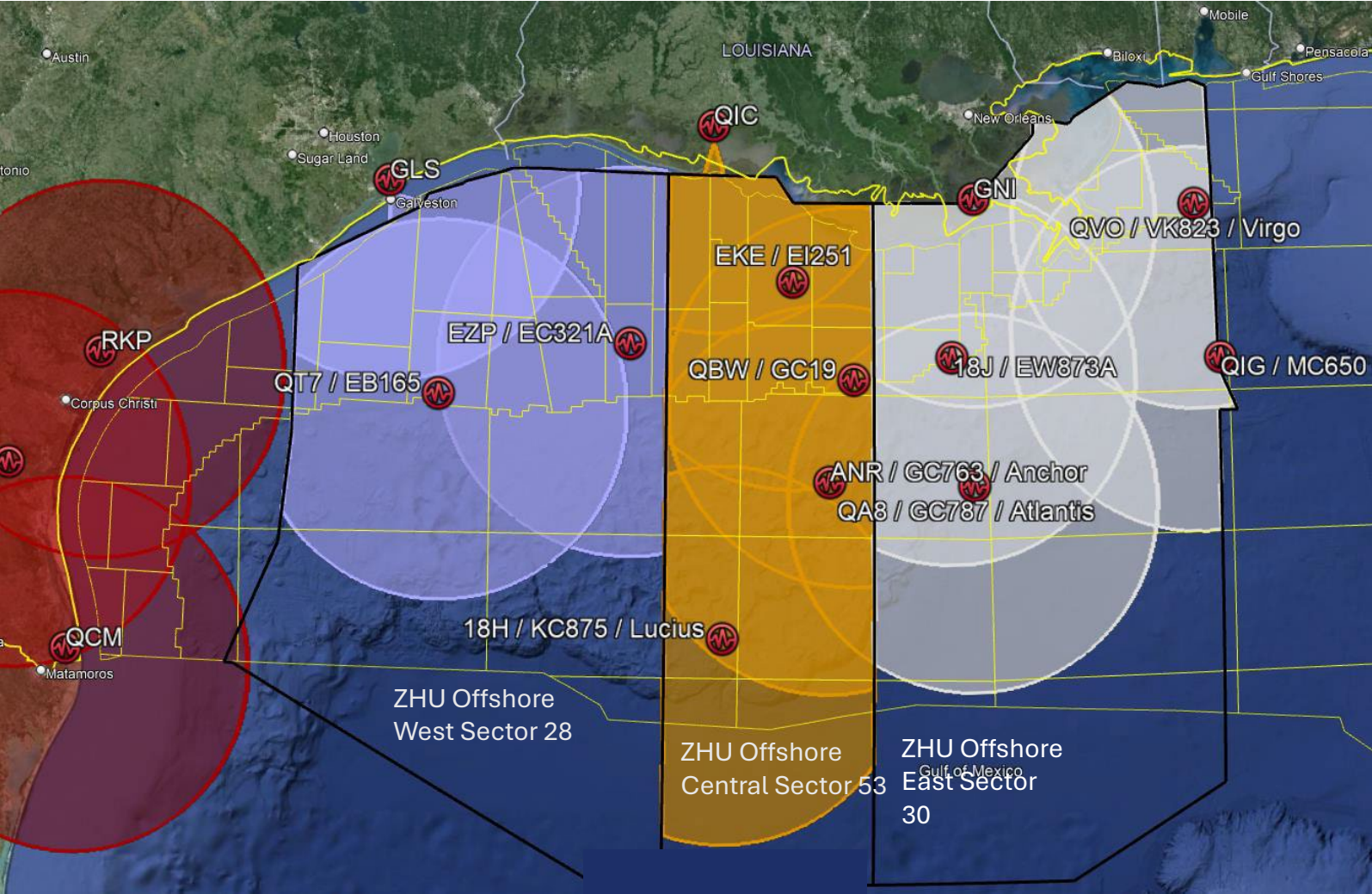


**Federal AWOS Commissioned: 25**





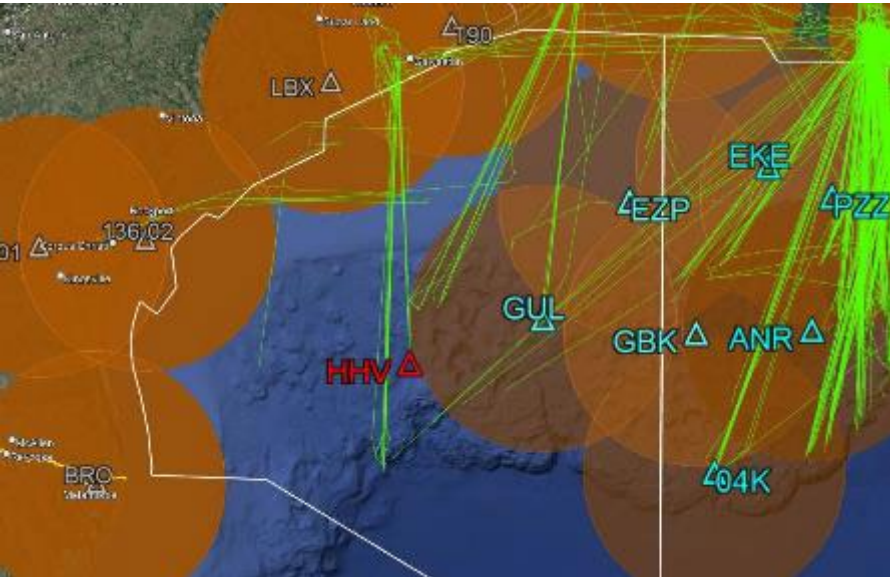
# Current RCAG Coverage 3000' MSL



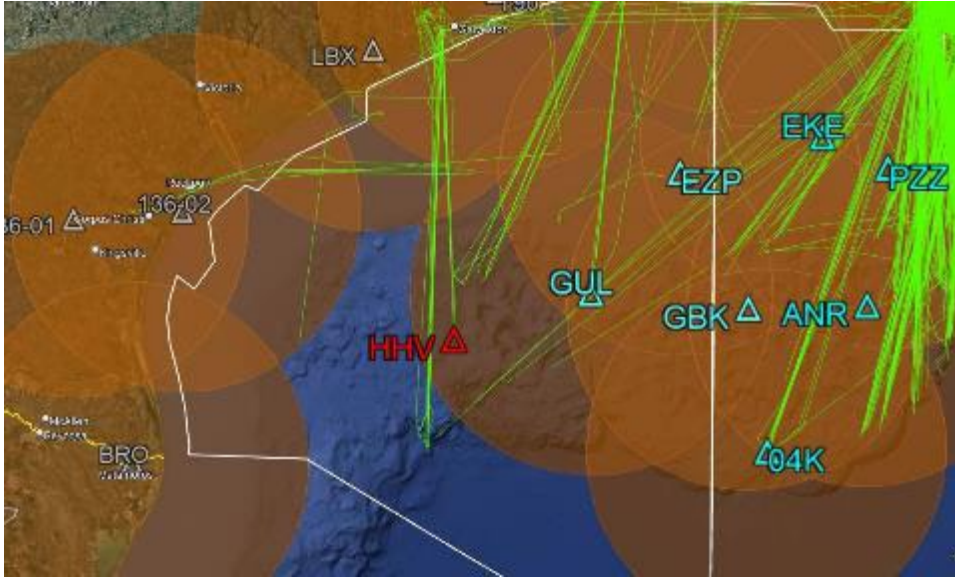
# ADS-B Coverage Awareness



# ADS-B Coverage without Hoover Diana (HHV)



1,500' MSL

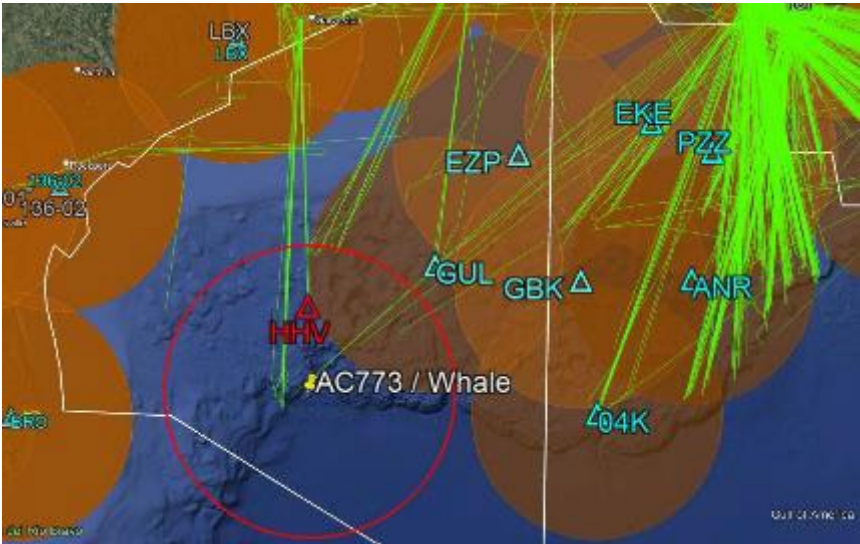


3,000' MSL

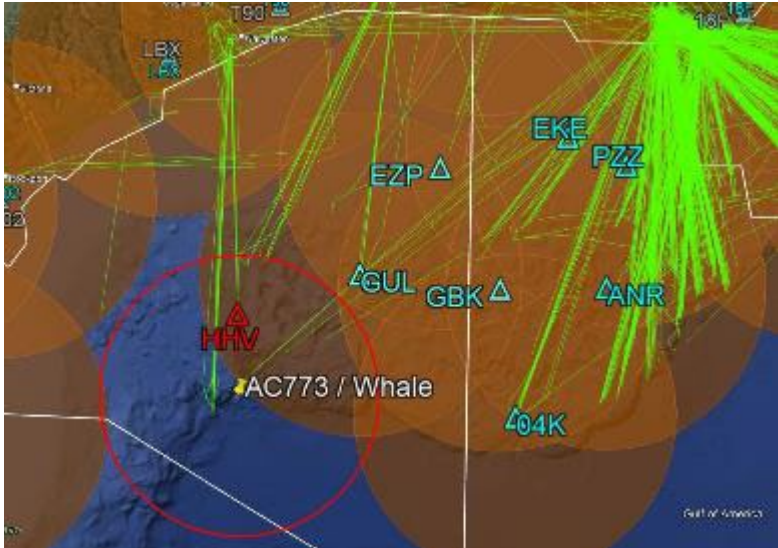
Removal Expected:  
HHV 2025



# ADS-B Coverage without Hoover Diana (HHV); with Whale



1,500' MSL



3,000' MSL



# ADS-B Coverage without Gunnison (GUL) and Hoover Diana (HHV)



1,500' MSL



3,000' MSL

Removal Expected:

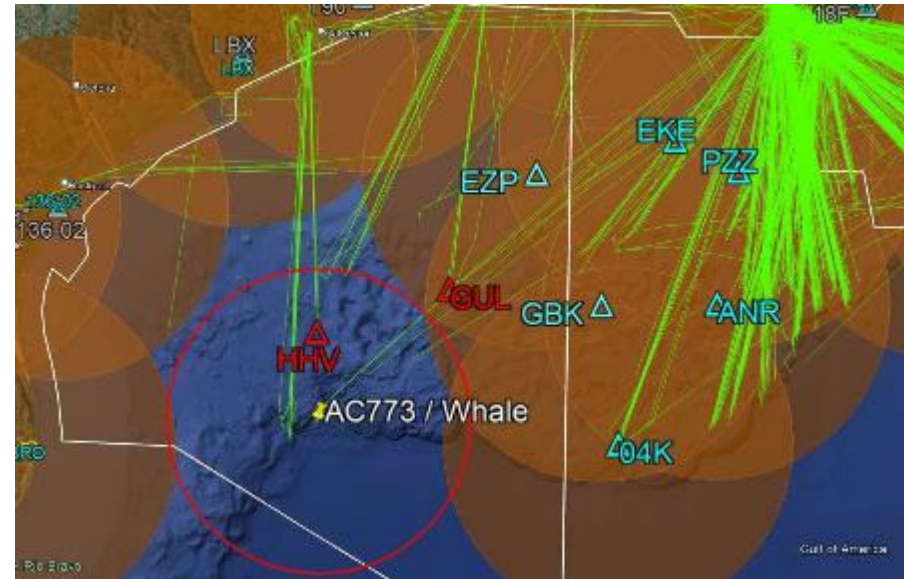
HHV 2025

GUL 2026

# ADS-B Coverage without Gunnison (GUL) and Hoover Diana (HHV); with Whale



1,500' MSL

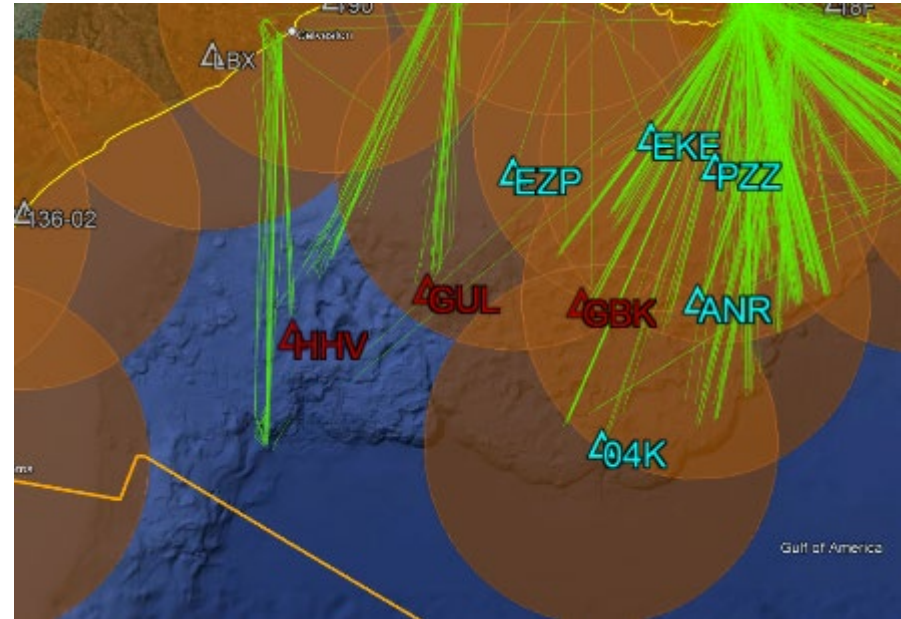


3,000' MSL

# ADS-B Coverage without Magnolia (GBK), Gunnison (GUL), and Hoover Diana (HHV)



1,500' MSL



3,000' MSL

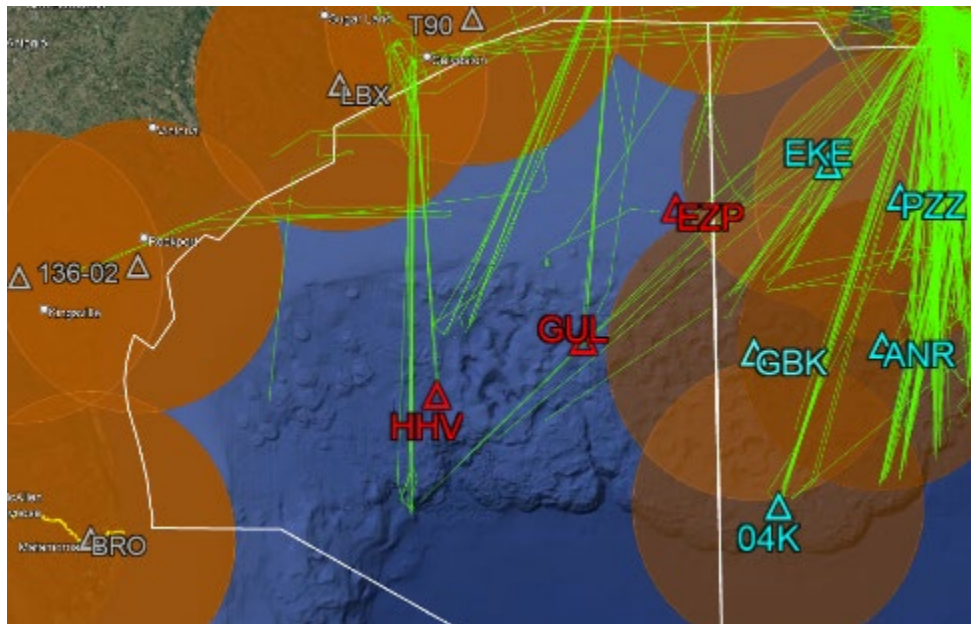
Removal Expected:

HHV 2025

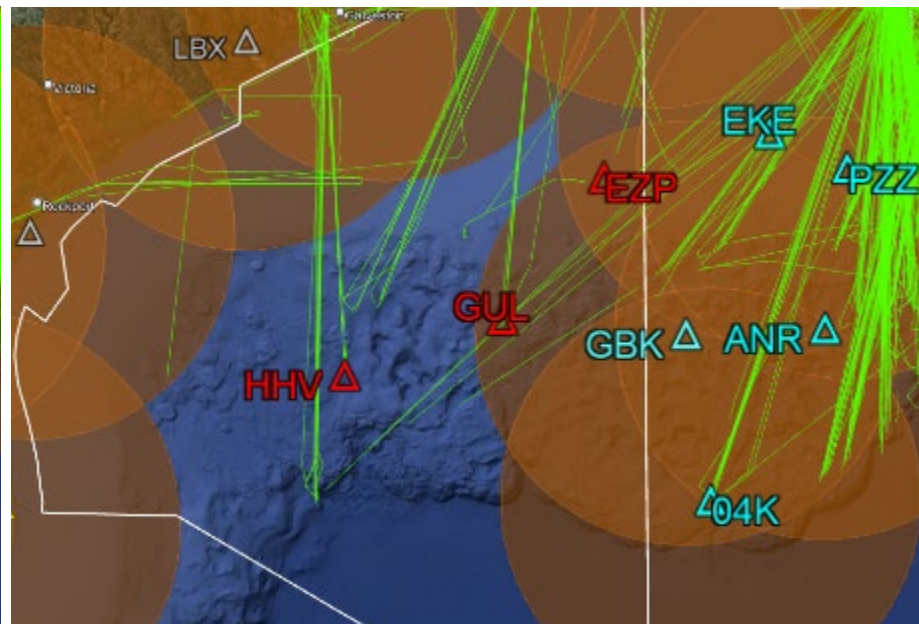
GUL 2026

GBK 2028

# ADS-B Coverage without East Cameron 321A (EZP), Gunnison (GUL), and Hoover-Diana (HHV)



1,500' MSL



3,000' MSL

Removal Expected:

HHV 2025

GUL 2026

EZP 2027

# AIC Decisions

**Colleen Ahlers**  
Implementation Lead



# Considerations for AIC Decisions

- 1. 35 AWOS Stations at our disposal**
- 2. Annual guideline includes:**
  - 2x AWOS Installations**
  - 1 ADS-B Installation**
  - 1 RCAG Installation**
- 3. Funding and Requirement Allocations for FY26-30 are currently under review and will establish resource availability**

# AIC Decisions

## 2 Decisions to propose to the AIC

- **ADS-B, AWOS & VHF Comm Installation at Keathley Canyon 292 / Kaskida (BP)**
- **Onshore AWOS Installation at RLC Heliport Venice in Venice, LA**

# Keathley Canyon 292 / Kaskida AWOS, ADS-B, & VHF Comm Coverage & Benefits

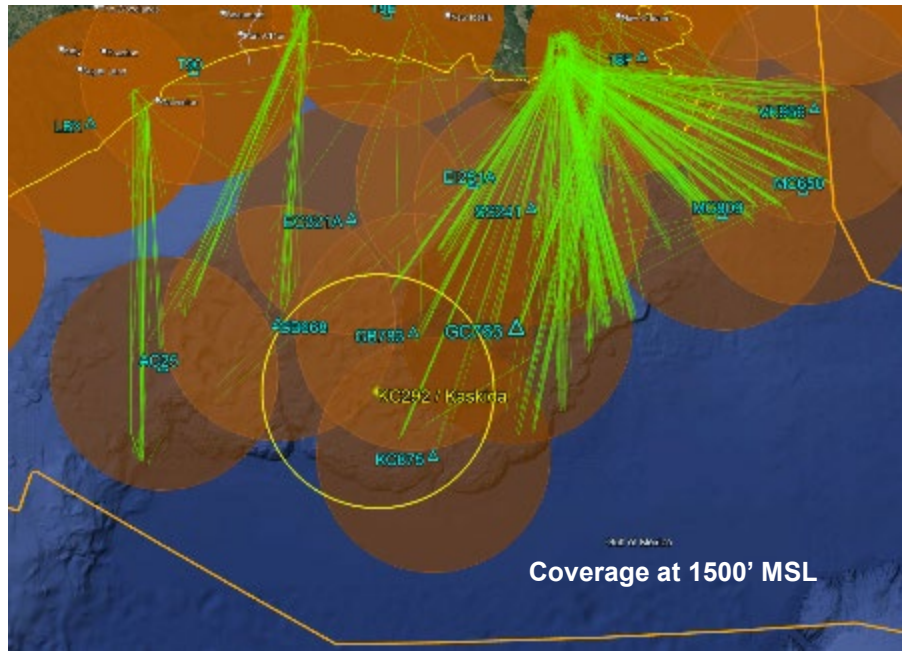


# Weather Coverage



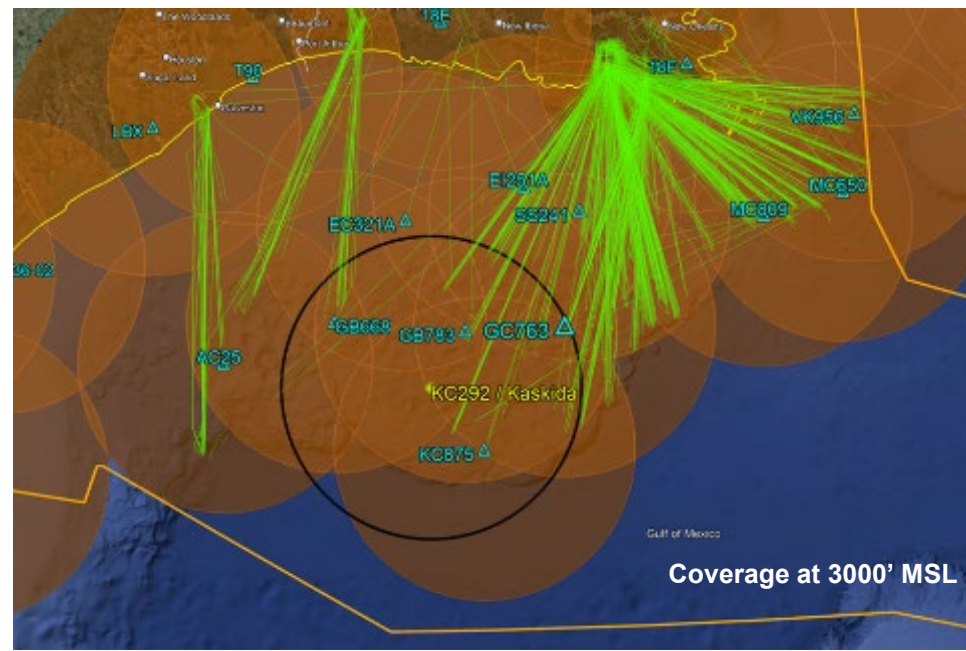
With expanded weather box approval, KC292 would pair with GB783, KC875 and GB426

# ADS-B Coverage



## Benefits at 1500'

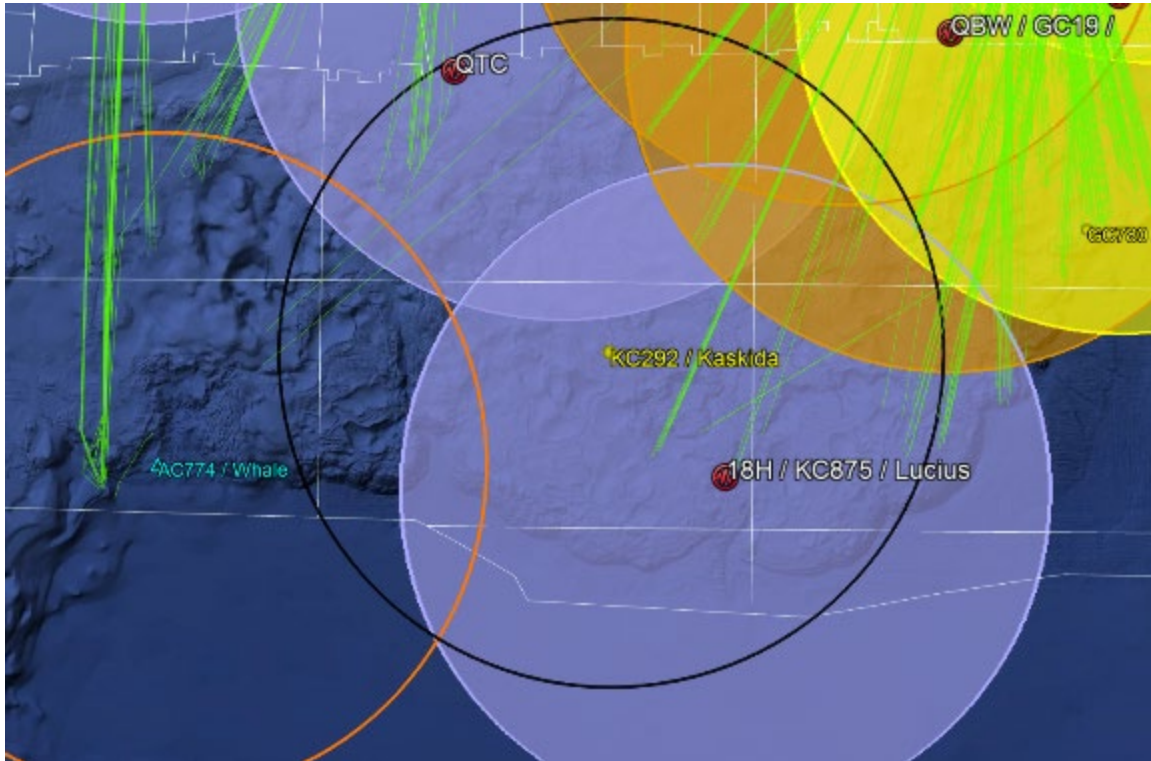
- ❖ Primary coverage in Western portion of GB and KC areas
- ❖ Provides redundant coverage with GB783 and KC875
- ❖ Provides redundant coverage in GB, KC, and WR areas



## Benefits at 3000'

- ❖ Provides redundant coverage to GB, KC, GC, WR areas

# VHF Comm Coverage



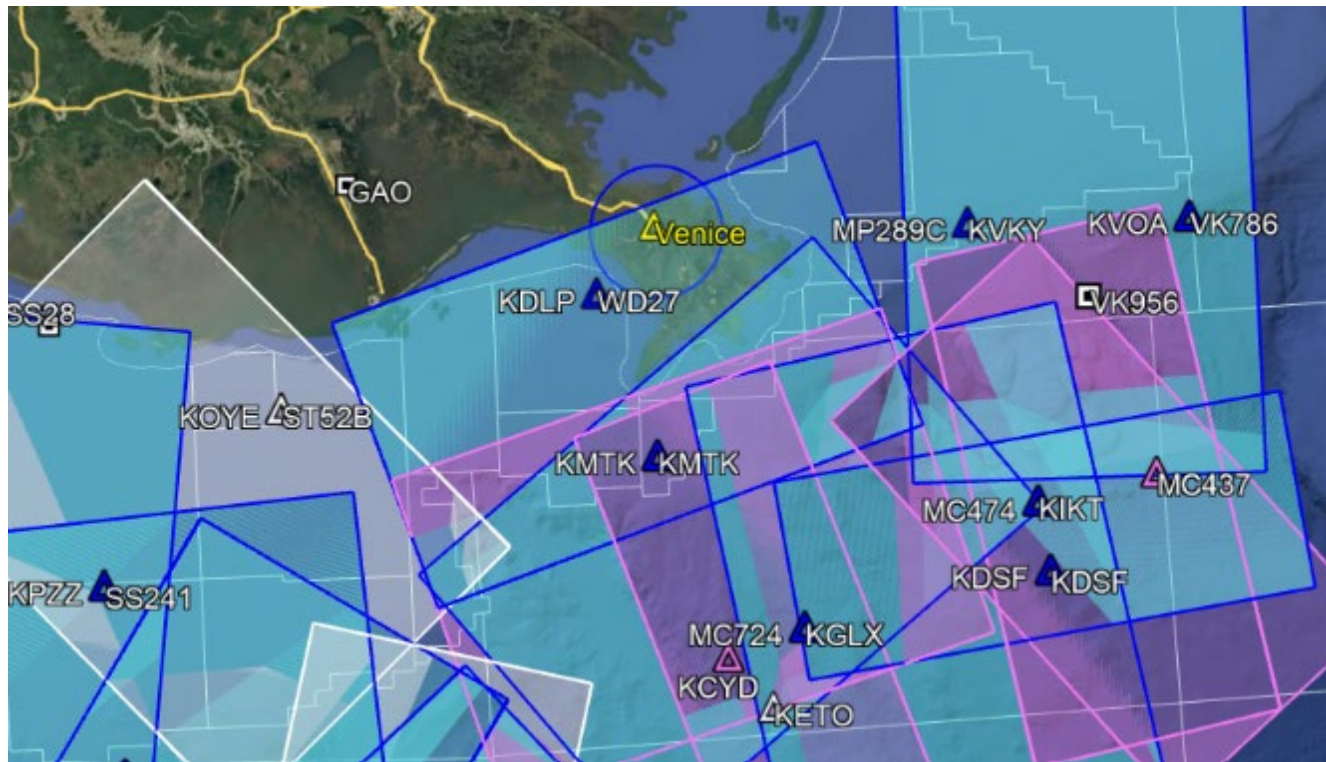
## Benefits

- ❖ Provide primary coverage in Western KC
- ❖ Provide redundant coverage in KC, GB, GC, WR

# RLC Venice AWOS Coverage and Benefits



# Weather Coverage

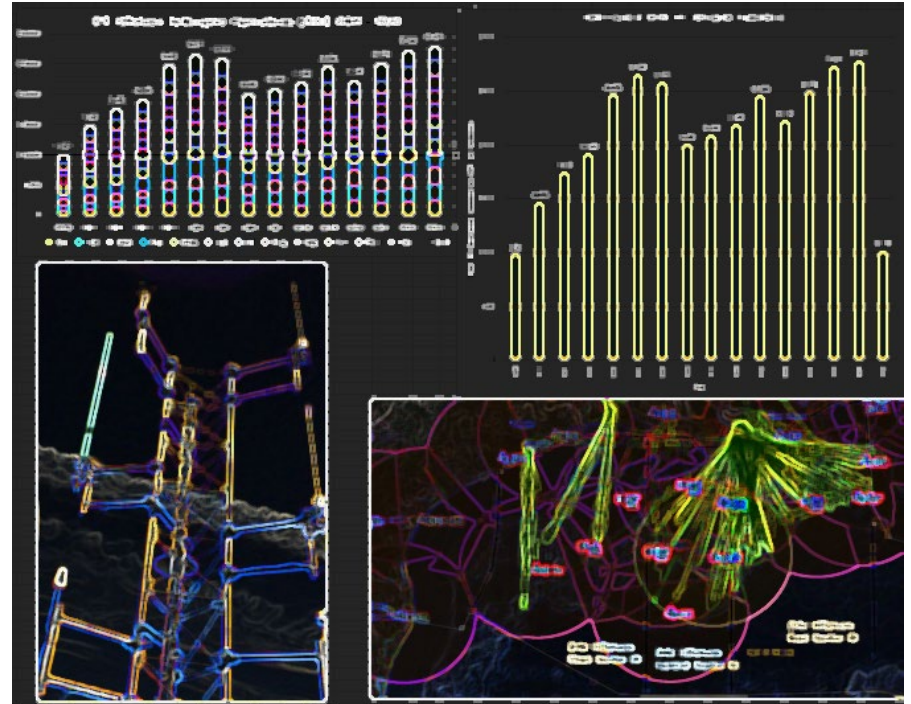


## Benefits

- ❖ Provide consistent destination AWOS coverage on shore and in the southeastern coastal region
- ❖ Provide redundant coverage in the near and mid-water region with a weather box pairing

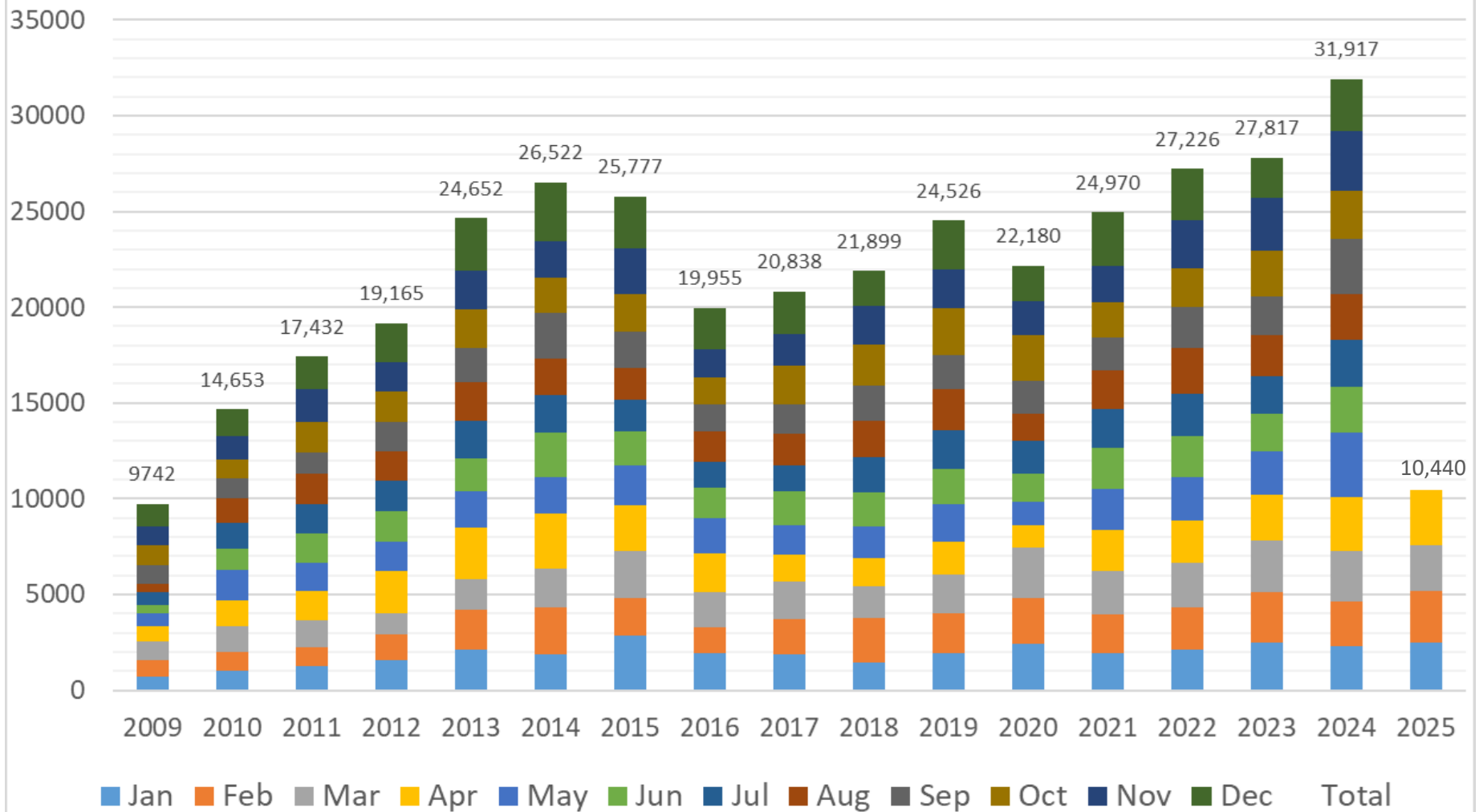
# Traffic Count & Trends

**Colleen Ahlers**  
Implementation Lead



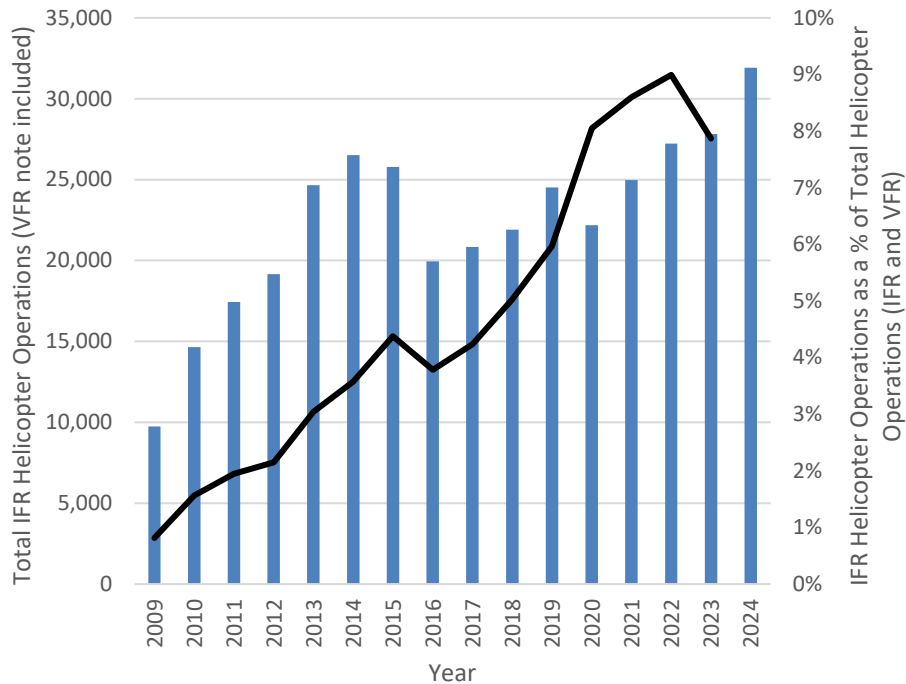
# ZHU IFR Offshore Traffic Count Chart

## IFR Offshore Helicopter Operations (ZHU) 2009 - 2025

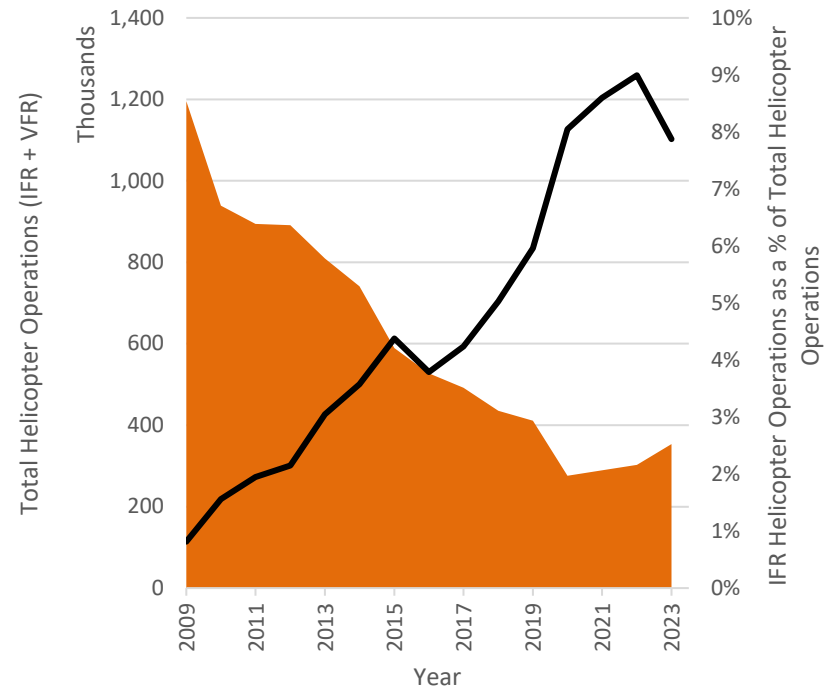


# IFR Offshore Helicopter Traffic Trends

GOM IFR Helicopter Operations and % IFR of Total



GOM Total Helicopter Operations



## Observations:

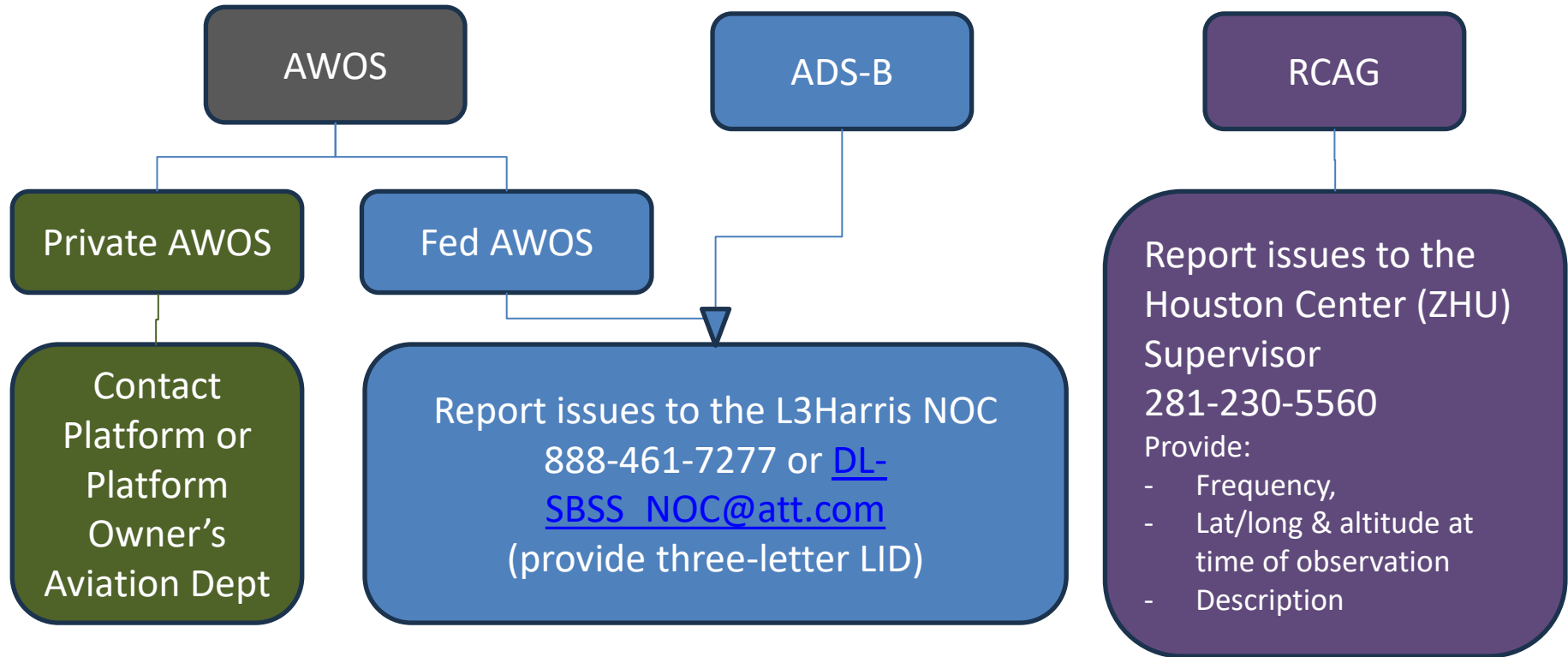
**2023 Total VFR ops grew by a greater percentage than IFR ops**



# Community Awareness

**Rana Obeid**  
Federal Lead

# Reporting Equipment Issues



Report concerns/impacts to operations/safety to OIMe Team: [rhonda@gems-inc.com](mailto:rhonda@gems-inc.com) & [Alexandra.D.Charity@faa.gov](mailto:Alexandra.D.Charity@faa.gov)

# Gulf AWOS Users

## Aviation / Aerospace Operations

### Commercial Entities

- Airlines
- Cargo
- Charter
- Helicopters
- Fish Spotters
- Space Ops
- Environmental Surveyors
- Uncrewed Aircraft

### DOD

- US Air Force
- US Navy
- Air National Guard (TX, LA)
- Army National Guard

### DOI

- Bureau of Environmental Enforcement
- US Fish & Wildlife Service

### Other Gov. Dept. / Agencies

- National Aeronautics and Space Administration
- Dept. of Transportation (TX, LA)
- Hurricane Hunters / NOAA
- Drug Enforcement Agency

### Other Non-Gov.

- General Aviation

### DHS

- US Coast Guard
- US Customs and Border Protection

## Meteorological Data Processing

(Purpose: Weather forecasting or other)

### Commercial Entities

- Local/National News
- Weather Technology Corporations
- Spaceflight Corporations
- Airlines
- Other Aviation Operators
- Software / Applications

### Gov. Dept. / Agencies

- National Weather Service
- National Hurricane Center
- US Environmental Protection Agency

## Marine Operations

### Commercial Entities

- Cargo Vessels
- Fishing Vessels
- Transport/Supply Vessels
- Vessels supporting Oil & Gas Production & Exploration

### Other

- Private Vessels

### Gov Dept. / Agencies

- US Coast Guard Vessels



# Important Items

Tahiti, Titan, and Whale AWOS Location on KMZ files have been discovered to be erroneous due to mistranslation of lat/long data. Location and associated provisional weather boxes will be corrected as soon as possible and redistributed.



Corrections have been made and distributed

Anticipate BA538 AWOS outage to continue through February 2025



AWOS service has been restored

ForeFlight (FF) Efforts

- GOA AWOS additions (FAA-VAI-FF)
- Propose FF to disseminate Weather Box KMZ



AWOS additions up to date

Weather Box dissemination under review

# AWOS Reporting Status

## Issues

Operators expressed concerns about deficient AWOS coverage, deployed system outage/degrades, is causing major safety concerns, hindering efficiency, and preventing some IFR operations.



## Resolutions

- Escalated issues to higher management
- Continue discussions with industry
- Evaluating benefits of AWOS tech refresh option

# Closing Comments

**Rana Obeid**  
Federal Lead



# Efficiency Efforts

- **Achieve 35 AWOS (+10) Commissioned!**
- **Work around coverage loss issues**
- **Optimization of site preparation duties**

Industry support needed to achieve the goal:

## **Energy Companies / FAA:**

- ✓ Expedite Memorandum of Agreements
- ✓ Travel for Site Surveys
- ✓ People On Board allocation
- ✓ General Prioritization among competing offshore projects

## **Helicopter Operators / FAA:**

- ✓ Travel for Site Surveys
- ✓ Garner Energy Company Support

**Tech Refresh Challenge: Remove and Replace ALL AWOS in the near future**



# FAA Offshore Infrastructure Management & Engineering (OIMe)



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